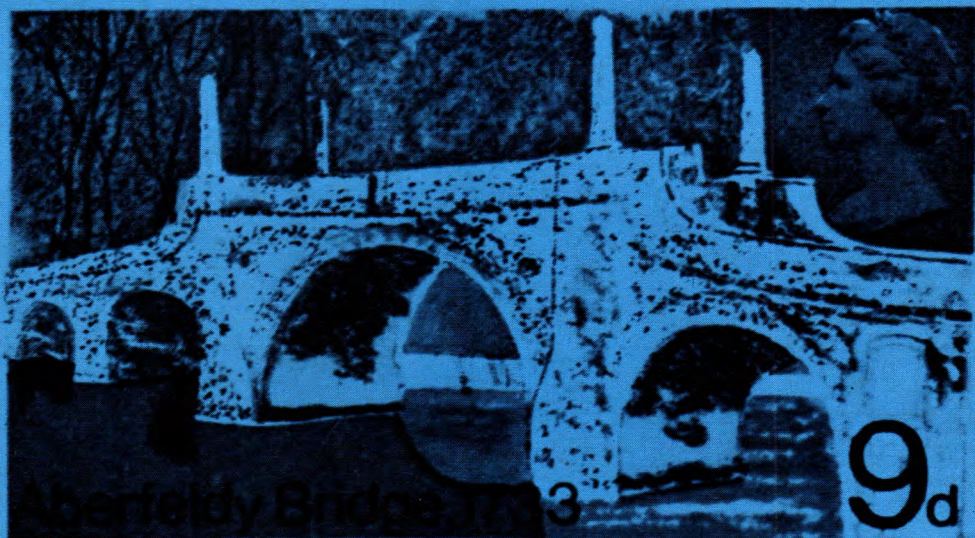


# Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 5: Number 8 April 1968



Aberfeldy Bridge 1963

9d

RESTALL

HARRISON

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## Introduction

We have a very full issue this month with details of the Bridges issue of 29 April and first day cover information for the Anniversaries stamps. The date for the Anniversary issue is now 29 May and *not* 1 June. A further article, this time about Captain Cook, continues the series of the Anniversary subjects.

We are feeling a little pleased with ourselves this month as the GPO exhibit at Interpex won the Grand Award—a photo is shown on page 6.

We still have a few copies of the special Interpex Bulletin available – send 2s 6d (30c) for your copy.

## Captain Cook

James Cook was born in Marton, Cleveland in November 1728, the son of an agricultural labourer. After a short education, he worked in a shop near Whitby, and then following a disagreement, he served for several years with a Whitby shipowners. In 1755, at the start of the war with France, he enlisted in the King's Navy as an able-seaman on board the *Eagle*. Four years later, he was appointed master of the *Mercury*, in which he sailed for North America, where he surveyed the St Lawrence river. In 1762, Cook became the 'marine surveyor of the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador' under the governor of Newfoundland, Captain Pallisser, who had been captain of the *Eagle*. He was given command of the *Grenville*, in which he made occasional trips to England.

In 1768, the Royal Society decided to despatch an expedition to the Pacific to observe the transit of Venus. Cook's name was proposed as leader of the expedition, and on 25 May 1768, Cook received his commission as lieutenant in charge of the *Endeavour*. They set sail from Plymouth on 25 August 1768 and, having passed through Madeira and Rio de Janeiro and round Cape Horn, the *Endeavour* arrived in Tahiti on 13 April 1769, where the transit of Venus was successfully observed on 3 June.

On the homeward voyage, six months were spent examining and charting the coast of New Zealand. The whole east coast of Australia was also charted, New South Wales being so named because Cook fancied that the coastline bore a resemblance to that of the Bristol Channel; Botany Bay and Endeavour Straits were also named. The *Endeavour* finally reached England again on 12 June 1771, having been away for nearly three years. In that time, thirty out of eighty-five crew members had died from scurvy or 'the dreaded fever', and although this was not considered excessive at the time, it obviously worried Cook.

Following his epic voyage, Cook was promoted to Commander and was appointed

to command an expedition to explore the Pacific, sailing from Plymouth on 13 July 1772. There were two ships – the *Resolution* and the *Adventure*. Reversing the order of all previous circumnavigations, they sailed eastwards, in the hope of finding a great southern continent. The ships sailed as far south as possible, until, in a fog, they were separated. The *Resolution* arrived alone in New Zealand, and from there sailed to Tahiti, meeting up with the *Adventure* en route. They returned to New Zealand, separated, and the *Resolution* sailed south again to the ice. Turning north, the New Hebrides were explored and New Caledonia was discovered. Cook once more sailed south, and discovered the large island which he named Southern Georgia. The *Resolution* finally arrived back in Plymouth on 29 July 1775.

During this second voyage, only one member of the crew of 118 died; this remarkable reduction in deaths was due to Cook's efforts to ensure that the possibility of infection was at a minimum. In recognition of this, he was awarded the Copley gold medal by the Royal Society.

Cook, who had now been promoted to Captain, set off for the third time from Plymouth in the *Resolution* on 12 July 1776, this time bound for the North Pacific. Having joined the *Discovery* at the Cape of Good Hope, the two ships sailed to New Zealand, spending the next year among the South Pacific Islands. From there they sailed to North America and northwards as far as they could go until stopped by ice. Turning south, the ships reached Karakaoa Bay in Hawaii on 17 January 1779, and remained there for a fortnight, during which time Cook was treated with great respect by the natives.

The ships put to sea again, but were driven back by a storm. Returning to their former anchorage, Cook found the mood of the natives had changed considerably.

Robberies from the ships increased, and one of the natives was flogged on board the *Discovery* for stealing some tongs; a skirmish on shore followed, out of which the English

escaped with difficulty. The same night, a cutter was taken away by the natives, and the following morning Cook went ashore with an escort and attempted to bring the native king off as a friendly hostage; however his family began to arm themselves and Cook decided to retreat to the boats. Unfortunately, firing broke out from the boats; Cook, who was by now alone on the shore, called out to cease firing, and tried to run for a boat. As his back was turned, he was stunned by a blow on his head, and was then cruelly stabbed to death. His body was recovered and he was duly buried.

In 1762, Cook had married a Miss Batts. There were six children, three of whom died in infancy.

In 1874, an obelisk was erected in Hawaii in his memory; however, his best memorial is his map of the Pacific, which was the first map to be made with any great accuracy.

## British Bridges Stamps

For the first of this year's special issues four colourful stamps are to be issued on 29 April showing famous British Bridges. The denominations are 4d, 9d, 1s 6d and 1s 9d.

The 4d stamp shows a design of the prehistoric Tarr Steps in Somerset by Jeffery Matthews who designed two of the United Nations stamps of 1965. The stamp is in four colours, purple, green, brown/black and gold.

Aberfeldy Bridge which dates from 1733 is shown on the 9d stamp which was designed by Andrew Restall who will be remembered for several of our recent stamps including some of the Forth Road Bridge, Battle of Britain, ITU and Technology issues. The design is in six colours, green, brown, blue, red/brown, brown/black and gold.

The design of the 1s 6d stamp shows the Menai Bridge of 1826 and is by Leonard Rosoman who was successful with his Landscape series which were the first of Britain's pictorial designs. For the first time on a British stamp the legend is bi-lingual and

reads 'Pont Menai 1826' and 'Menai Bridge 1826'. There are five colours on this stamp, blue, green, orange, black and gold.

The most modern type of bridge, the M4 viaduct, is featured on Jeffery Matthews design for the 1s 9d stamp which is in five colours, green, mauve, black, yellow and gold.

The Queen's head appears in gold on each of the stamps which also bear the names of the designer and printer.

The printing details are:

*Printer:* Harrison & Sons

*Paper:* Coated un-watermarked, phosphor lined.

*Machine:* 4d and 1s 9d, sheet fed rotary. 9d and 1s 6d, sheet fed flatbed.

*Perforation:* 15 × 14

*Size:* 0.95" × 1.6"

*No. of stamps to sheet:* 120

Presentation packs will be available for this issue price 5s 4d each. In addition to the complete set of stamps full details are given of the designs, the artists and the printing processes.

## Special Handstamps

A special handstamp engraved 'Philatelic Society 21st Anniversary' will be used on 14 April 1968 at Chesterfield. A symbol of an old postmark is incorporated.

A circular handstamp 'Market Street Stamp Exhibition' will be used at Manchester between 22 and 27 April 1968, where there will be a special posting box in the Exhibition Hall of Lewis's Ltd.

A special handstamp 'Commemorating the Birth of William Shakespeare, 23 April 1968, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire' will be used at Stratford-Upon-Avon on the 23 April 1968. A motif of an Elizabethan Theatre appears on the left-hand side of the stamp.

A special handstamp engraved 'Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies Congress

(Edinburgh Philatelic Society) Bridge of Allan Stirlingshire' will be used at Stirling on 27 April 1968. A special posting box will be provided at the Congress Centre, the Allan Waters Hotel.

A special handstamp 'Philatelic Convention' will be used at Crawley, Sussex on 27 April 1968. A motif of an old postmark will be incorporated in the centre.

A special handstamp 'Health Congress, R.S.H.' will be used at Eastbourne between 29 April and 3 May 1968. The stamp is of a circular design with the emblem of the sponsors, the Royal Society of Health, in the centre.

A special handstamp engraved 'Huddersfield Philatelic Society, Diamond Jubilee' will be used at Huddersfield on 4 May 1968. A special posting box will be provided at the Town Hall, Huddersfield.

A special handstamp, of rectangular design, engraved 'Holy Trinity Church Flower Festival' will be used at Craigavad, County Down, Northern Ireland on 18 May 1968. A motif of the Church is on the left-hand corner of the handstamp.

A rectangular handstamp, engraved 'Federation of Kent Philatelic Societies 21st Anniversary' will be used at Tunbridge Wells on 18 May 1968. The design incorporates the shields for Kent and the sponsors'. A special posting box will be available at the convention centre, the Spa Hotel, Tunbridge Wells.

Collectors may obtain specimens of any of the above handstamps by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Head Postmaster concerned with a request for the particular cancellation.

'First Students' Charities Campaign' will be used at Dundee on 15 April 1968. Rectangular design with the crest of Dundee University on the left-hand side.

A special bilingual handstamp engraved 'University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, Charter Celebrations; Athrofa Gwyddoniaeth a Thechnoleg Prifysgol Cymru, Caerdydd' will be used at Cardiff on 19 April. The event is the University of Wales, Institute

of Science and Technology Degree Day Celebrations.

A special handstamp engraved '50th Anniversary of the R.A.F. Leuchars Fife' will be used on 29 April at St. Andrews.

A special handstamp 'Huddersfield Philatelic Society Diamond Jubilee' will be used at Huddersfield on 4 May. There will be a special posting box at the Town Hall where the sponsors will be hosts to the Annual Convention of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association.

A special handstamp '24 Convention A.E.P.S.' will be used on 20 April at Loughton, Essex. A motif of an acorn is incorporated. There will be a special posting box at the convention centre, Brook School, Roding Road, Loughton, Essex.

A special handstamp engraved 'Walton & Weybridge Philatelic Society 21st Anniversary, 27th April 1968, Weybridge' will be used at Walton Head Post Office on 27 April. The design incorporates an outline of Walton Bridge and a VC 10, emphasising the proximity of London Airport to Weybridge. There will be a special posting box in St. James' Hall, Walton-on-Thames.

A special handstamp engraved 'Royal Air Force Leconfield, Freedom of the Borough, 2 May 1968, Beverley Yorkshire' will be used at Beverley on 2 May. A simple pictorial motif of Beverley Bar is incorporated in the centre of the circular design. A special posting box will be situated in Beverley Sub-Office.

A handstamp engraved 'Dedication of New Scout Headquarters' will be used at Harrow and Wembley, Middlesex on 4 May 1968. The sponsors, the 4th Kenton Scout Group, will be having a special posting box outside their new hut. This is situated in Wembley Close, Kenton, Harrow.

A special handstamp engraved 'Highland Games Ballater Aberdeenshire' will be used at Ballater on 15 August. A motif of a wild cat is depicted in the centre of the design. There will be a special posting box in Monaltrie Park, Ballater, where the Highland Games will begin at 1 p.m.

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## **GPO Wins Grand Award at Interpex**

The Post Office was awarded a silver rose bowl as the Grand Award for the best display by a Postal Administration at the Interpex international stamp exhibition recently held in New York.

The magnificent display, which featured British stamps surmounted by a 3ft replica of a jewelled crown set against a background of purple velvet, was adjudged the best of the governmental exhibits.



*Interpex 1968*

*Mr Herbert Rosen, Chairman of Interpex, congratulates and presents Grand Award Trophy to Mr S. V. Thomas, Assistant Head Postmaster, Edinburgh. Looking on at the left is Mr Cyril Sharwood of the British General Post Office, and at the right, Mr Cyril Andrews of Stanley Gibbons Ltd.*

# British Anniversaries Stamps – First Day Cover Services

The British Anniversaries special postage stamps will now be issued on Wednesday, 29 May.

The date originally announced – 1 June, the Saturday before the Spring Bank Holiday – posed operational and staffing difficulties, and the Post Office has had a number of requests from philatelists and others to change the issue date.

The four stamps to be issued on 29 May are:

- 4d commemorating the centenary of the Trades Union Congress
- 9d commemorating the 50th anniversary of Women's Suffrage
- 1s commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Air Force
- 1s 9d commemorating the bi-centenary of Captain Cook's first voyage of discovery.

Details of the designs will be announced nearer the dates.

## First Day Postmarking Arrangements

As usual, philatelic posting boxes will be available in towns and cities throughout the country for collectors who wish to receive the special 'First Day of Issue' cancellation.

Because of the separate nature of the four anniversaries, the present requirement that covers should bear the full range of new stamps to qualify for 'First Day of Issue' handstamping will be waived and covers bearing one or more of the stamps will be eligible to receive the cancellation.

Special postmarks have been arranged, for the first day only, at places connected with the anniversaries. The TUC was founded in Manchester; the suffragette Dame Millicent Fawcett was born at Aldeburgh, Suffolk; the RAF link with Hendon is well known; and Captain Cook, a Yorkshireman, lived for many years at Whitby. Collectors may obtain 'First Day of Issue' postmarks by posting covers at each of these places.

The Philatelic Bureau will provide its normal 'A' and 'B' services for covers bearing all four stamps. It will also provide a special service for covers bearing one of the stamps only. For operational reasons, it will not be possible for the Bureau to accept orders for covers bearing two or three of the stamps; but these can be posted in philatelic posting boxes.

The normal 'A' service (all four stamps) is offered at an inclusive charge of 6s 10d. The cancellation will be Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh.

The normal 'B' service (all four stamps) is offered at an inclusive charge of 4s 10d. The cancellation will be Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh.

The special services for covers bearing single stamps will be as follows:

| <i>Service 'A'</i> | <i>Service 'B'</i> | <i>Stamp</i>                                                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3s 4d              | 1s 4d              | TUC 4d – postmarked Philatelic Bureau or Manchester             |
| 3s 9d              | 1s 9d              | Women's Suffrage 9d – postmarked Philatelic Bureau or Aldeburgh |
| 4s                 | 2s                 | RAF 1s – postmarked Philatelic Bureau or Hendon                 |
| 4s 9d              | 2s 9d              | Captain Cook 1s 9d – postmarked Philatelic Bureau or Whitby     |

(For the 'A' service, the Bureau provides its own covers. For the 'B' service, the Bureau affixes the stamps on customers' own pre-addressed covers).

Orders received after 22 May cannot be accepted for treatment by the Bureau. Covers bearing single stamps posted in philatelic boxes or submitted to the Bureau under Service B to overseas addresses should show, where necessary, the air mail service required. The 1s stamp, for instance, is sufficient for full air mail service to some countries but only second-class mail for others. The 4d stamp covers only the printed paper surface mail tariff for all overseas addresses.

## The Stamps and Coinage of Two Queens

That Arnold Machin was commissioned to design the Royal portrait for incorporation in the design of the new decimal coinage having already designed the new definitive series of British Postage Stamps of 1967/68 was a personal triumph of no mean order.

It is a curious fact that both Machin and his illustrious forerunner William Wyon were both midlanders. Wyon, Birmingham born, of a family of famous medallists came to London in 1815 to seek a wider outlet for his skill. Machin, born at Stoke-on-Trent, where, as is fitting for a man of the Five Towns, he took a great interest in ceramics designing for such famous factories as Wedgwood, Worcester and Derby, similarly came to London and, like Wyon, won the distinction of being elected a member of the Royal Academy. Now as Professor of Sculpture at the Royal College of Art Machin's path deviates from that of William Wyon, for the latter became Chief Engraver at the Royal Mint in 1828.

Nevertheless the work of these two artists found expression in the coinage and postage stamps of their respective times; William Wyon's portrait medallion head of the young Queen Victoria appeared on the early coinage of her reign. His portrait of the Sovereign on the City Medal of 1837, a commemorative medal struck on the occasion of the Queen's Accession visit to the City of London, was to become, in 1840, the prototype of the vignette portrait which appeared, without change, on all the adhesive stamps issued during Queen Victoria's long reign.

The Sovereign's portraits on the new British definitive postage stamps of 1967/68 and that which will appear on the new decimal coinage, are similarly sculpturally conceived. That on the postage stamps showing Queen Elizabeth II's portrait in profile turned towards the left follows the convention that with only occasional exceptions on the postage stamps of Great Britain the Sovereign's portrait always faces left. The coinage head



*Impression from Wax model by William Wyon of Queen Victoria's head for the obverse of the British Imperial gold, silver and copper coinage issued for currency.*

profile faces right, respecting the convention that in successive reigns the Royal head alternates between a right and left profile.

Machin's new coinage head incorporates a different diadem to that used for the Postage head and the chignon has been restyled. The postage head diadem of 1967 has its origin in that shown on Wyon's City Medal of 1837.

Machin's coinage head and that devised for postage stamps are not identical although both show plainly the handwriting of the same artist. In this the two heads differ from those of William Wyon for his medallion portrait of Queen Victoria as it appears on the City Medal of 1837 was conceived purely as a medallion. Its later adoption as the basic design for the postage stamps of 1840 was an afterthought – albeit a very happy one for all the adhesive stamps of Queen Victoria's long reign were to bear a vignette portrait of the Queen based on



1 City Medal, 1837.



1837—Water colour drawing by Henry Corbould, with pencil enlargement of the Queen's head and diadem. One of a series which influenced the design of the first stamps.



Photograph shows the obverse design common to all five denominations of the new decimal coinage.



Head shown on postage stamps. Arnold Machin.



this medallion portrait. On the stamps of this Country the Queen never aged!

The problems of producing stamps from the relief medallion made by William Wyon and that made by Arnold Machin in our own time were very different. Photoreproduction methods were not available in Wyon's day and consequently a line drawing had to be made of the Royal portrait before the engraver could get to work on the die. Henry Corbould made an admirable line drawing of the Medallion which Charles Heath used for reference in making the engraving. This drawing forms part of the Phillip's collection in the National Postal Museum. This same drawing of Corbould's was later used by Joubert for the surface printed stamps produced by De La Rue.

Photogravure being the most advanced method of printing the huge quantities of stamps needed today Arnold Machin's design was prepared for production by this process which, while in many respects mechanical in nature, demands an enormously high standard of craftsmanship. But no mechanical or quasi mechanical process can design stamps or coinage. It takes an artist such as Wyon was, and Arnold Machin is, to do that.

F. MARCUS ARMAN

Dear Sir,

I was pleased that my earlier letter provoked interest from so many of your readers, particularly from young Richard Gerber in Johannesburg. Whilst I had my tongue in my cheek when I wrote I must concede that many of the comments made by these readers were valid, such as the length of time special issues should be on sale and the desirability of a Christmas issue.

I should like to add that I am in full agreement with R. W. Martin, whose letter followed mine, when he quoted such an apt definition of the postage stamp and praised the P.M.G. for issuing stamps which fulfilled the aims of this definition.

May I raise one more point concerning the paper used for present-day stamps? I have found that extreme care must be exercised when cleaning the larger stamps, especially from brown paper, otherwise part of the stamp itself comes away. I have never experienced this difficulty with earlier paper and I would be interested to hear if any of your readers have any pet tips for removing 'foreign matter' from stamps without having to dampen the backs with water.

Yours faithfully,

R. H. FIELD

*Bexleyheath, Kent*

## Philatelic Posting Boxes

A special philatelic posting box will be provided at Chippenham, Wiltshire from 29 April 1968.

## Philatelic Bulletin

If you enjoy reading the *Bulletin*, why not pass the enclosed application form to a friend? If you mention that the price is a modest 7s 6d (90c) a year, we can confidently expect to be flooded with replies. We count on you for your help.

Dear Sir,

An innovation I would like to see would be the reproduction on our stamps of the actual colours of the Crown Jewels in the Queen's Crown.

It may be impracticable, possibly costly, but I feel sure that if this could be achieved, world sales of our stamps would rocket and provide additional foreign currency apart from providing home collectors with a treat.

Yours faithfully,

G. LEECH

*Horwich, Lancs.*

Dear Sir,

I do congratulate the Editor on the gradual development of the *Philatelic Bulletin*. From No. 1 the process of improvement has been seen and the standard set is of high quality. Perhaps it is better for being an official organ rather than a commercial enterprise.

Articles by the Curator of the National Postal Museum bring substance for the enlightenment of the philatelic section of the public.

Could we not have articles from other Museums that have collections of stamps in their care? Surely other Public Bodies throughout the United Kingdom must have interesting details on or relating to philately in its broadest sense.

Yours faithfully,

C. E. AMY

*Greenford, Middlesex*

Dear Sir,

I was interested to read the letter from E. Milne-Redhead regarding the early accidental error in a postmark. An error in my possession does not antedate this, but may be of interest.

It is on a Mulready wrapper with a red maltese cross cancellation, postmarked RICHMOND JU 13 1840, addressed to Clive Gatton, Nr. Bristol, and receipt postmarked HO--B--- JU 14 0481. The date is clear but the post town is not and I am unable to trace what the name of this place may be.

Yours faithfully,

S. G. YATES

*Redbourn, Herts.*

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my views on a few topics which may interest other readers of the *Philatelic Bulletin*.

Firstly, I must express my thanks for such a varied and informative magazine; this must

surely contain something of interest to every reader each month.

Mr Gurnier's letter regarding the possible printing of four sets of cylinder numbers receives my support as, especially in small country Post Offices, only part sheets of the higher values are often issued.

Another point for discussion concerns First Day Covers. The Bureau will not hand cancel or accept unaddressed F.D.C.s and yet the dealers again profit by using peelable labels. This I believe is the source of unaddressed F.D.C.s offered for sale. Would it not be possible for the Bureau to reject any envelopes where the address is on a label attached to the cover to be subsequently removed.

Also on the topic of F.D.C.s I think the GPO cover for the British Paintings issue was rather disappointing. I hope it will not be reissued for the 1968 issue. Of recent F.D.C.s I think the official cover for the Chichester stamp was by far the best. The pictorial cancellation certainly added to the appeal of this superb cover.

Finally, I add my best wishes for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and its contributors.

Yours faithfully,

F. MAURICE JENKIN

*Penzance, Cornwall*

## **The Bureau Again to Visit Belgium**

When we exhibited at Brussels last September, many of our Belgian friends expressed the hope that we would shortly re-visit them.

We are very pleased to let them know that we are returning this time to Bruges, for 'British Fortnight' from 20 April to 6 May, when we hope to renew old friendships and make many new ones at our Sales Counter in the Palais Gouvernemental.

## Exhibition of Airmail Covers at Edinburgh

For a philatelist there are few more enjoyable ways of spending an hour or so than browsing through covers from the heroic days of the pioneer airmail services.

The 1930s were the epic years of long distance competitive flying and names like Amy Johnson, Kingsford Smith, Tommy Rose and Jim Mollison were seldom out of the limelight for long.

Parallel to the adventures of these inter-

nationally famous figures were those of a host of 'string-bag' pilots who pioneered the airmail routes over some of the most dangerous terrain in the world.

Nowhere are the exploits of these legendary aviators more adventurously shown than on the cachets of Canadian pioneer air covers where you will find dozens of strange sounding names like Rolling Portage, Fort Radium, Grindstone and Hamilton Carnival.



18 Dec 1936. HARRINGTON HARBOUR - RIMOUSKI, thence via  
HEPTON COURT AERODROME, BRAUNTON, DEVON,  
16 LUNDY ISLAND by Air, 18 Feb'y 1937.

## Postmark Slogans

Display a well documented collection of these pioneer covers along with a fine selection of 'No Fee-Empire Airmails' and British Inland Inaugural flights, and you have an exhibition well worth a visit from any Aero-ophile.

All these and many more are on show at the Philatelic Bureau Gallery, GPO Edinburgh throughout April and May.

The exhibition is open from 9 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm on Fridays and 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday. Admission is free.

### National Postal Museum

The National Postal Museum will occupy much larger accommodation towards the end of 1968.

To enable the building work to proceed we have had to close the temporary Museum from 1 April.

The date when the Museum proper will open later in the year will be announced as soon as possible in the Post Office *Philatelic Bulletin* and in the National and Philatelic press.

During the Summer the *Philatelic Bulletin* will publish accounts of some of the material being prepared for exhibition in the new galleries.

A subscription to the *Bulletin* will ensure that you are kept up to date about the Museum and about the Post Office Philatelic services. A year's subscription (7s 6d) covers 12 issues post free.

*Orders should be sent to:*

The Philatelic Bureau,  
GPO.  
Edinburgh 1.

The slogan 'Scottish Opera Spring 1968 Aberdeen His Majesty's. May 21-25', will be used in the standard position at Aberdeen from 22 April-25 May.

The slogan 'Fleet and District Carnival June 15 to 22' will be used in the transposed position at Aldershot from 26 May-22 June.

The slogan 'Devon County Show Exeter 16 17 18 May' will be used in the transposed position at Exeter from 18 April-16 May.

The slogan 'Harrogate Festival of Arts and Sciences August 8-17 1968' will be used in the transposed position at Harrogate from 27 May-17 August.

The slogan 'The 125th Suffolk Show 5 & 6 June 1968 Ipswich' will be used in the transposed position at Ipswich from 8 May-4 June.

The slogan 'Visit Lincoln and Lincolnshire Show Wed. Thurs. 19-20 June' will be used in the transposed position at Lincoln from 29 April-15 June.

The slogan 'East of England Show July 16 17 18 Peterborough' will be used in the standard position at 12 offices; a selection of which is as follows: Peterborough, Whittlesey, Oakham, Bedford and Royston, from 1 June until 18 July.

The slogan 'Prestwick' (Bathing Lake Design) last used on 30 June 1967, will be re-used at Prestwick from 13 May until 30 June.

The slogan 'Wallasey Festival of Sport June 1-17 1968' will be used in the transposed position at Wallasey from 6 May until 17 June.

The slogan 'Denmark In Britain April/May 1968' will be used in the standard position at WDO London from 16 April until 7 May.

The slogan 'Imperial Cancer Research Fund 1968 Appeal' will be used in the standard position and the transposed position at 47 offices: a selection of which is as follows: Manchester, Bristol, Nuneaton, Dudley, Slough, Leeds and Oxford from 14 May until 27 May.

## New Stamp Books

To brighten the appearance of stamp books we are to introduce books with pictorial covers in cerise, in orange and in blue. The books will be available from the Bureau or the philatelic sales counter at London Chief Office from the dates shown and from Post Offices as existing stocks run out.

The covers will bear designs of British explorers on the 10s books, British Birds on the 6s and British ships on the 4s 6d. The designers are David Gentleman, Harry Titcombe and Rowland Hilder respectively, while the layout and typography has been done by Stuart Rose FSIA.

The first of the new books is the 10s which was available from 25 March, bearing a design of David Livingstone, which will be followed at six-monthly intervals by Scott, Shackleton, Cook, Mary Kingsley and Drake.

The 6s books will be introduced on 4 June by a cover showing the Kingfisher. This will be followed at two-monthly intervals by other British Birds including Peregrine Falcon and Jay.

On the 4s 6d book, Rowland Hilder's design depicting the *Cutty Sark* will be issued on 1 July and will be followed at two-monthly intervals by the *Golden Hind*, the *Discovery* and *Queen Elizabeth 2*.

## Postmarking

We sometimes receive complaints from philatelists about the cancellation of stamps on parcels and packets. We are sorry that for operational reasons, we cannot regard these as philatelic items and therefore cannot *guarantee* first class cancellation impressions on them.

As, I am sure, our readers are already aware, the main purposes of a postmark are to cancel postage stamps so that they cannot be re-used and to provide an indication of the time and place of posting.

On most letters and postcards the postmark is made by a metal die which usually leaves a clear impression, but we have found by experience that such dies are generally unsuitable

for parcels, not merely because they do not leave a complete impression on what is often an irregular or yielding surface, but also because they are liable to damage the contents.

For this reason we use rubber-faced hand-stamps, which are more satisfactory from our point of view but which we realise produce too heavy an impression to be generally acceptable to philatelists.

We impress on our staff the need to ensure that all items are neatly and carefully cancelled, but to require all cancellations to be made in a way that would be acceptable to philatelists would slow down the handling of the mail to a very serious extent. It is for this reason that we provide special posting boxes at certain Head Offices throughout the United Kingdom for items bearing new postage stamps on the first day of issue. These items are cancelled by hand with a special first day of issue hand-stamp and we guarantee the cancellation impression on them. If a first day cover is received damaged in transit or if the impression is poor, a replacement can be arranged, if application is made to the Head Postmaster concerned as soon as possible after receipt.

This first day of issue service provides the best results and those of our readers who have friends abroad may find it worthwhile to make use of the facilities offered.

## Corrections

In page 4 of the March Bulletin reference was made to the 'Knag' cancelling machine. This should have read 'Krag' and we apologise for any misunderstanding this may have caused.

We have been asked to point out that the 'Bible Come to Life' Exhibition at Coleraine (see Special Handstamps Vol. 5 No. 7) was not cancelled because of an outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in the area – the cancellation resulted from precautions taken to ensure that the disease did not reach Northern Ireland from Great Britain. There has, in fact, been no outbreak of this disease in Northern Ireland since 1941.

## Stamp Selling Machines

The present range of 28,000 stamp machines consists of  $\frac{1}{2}d$ , 1d, 2d and 3d stamp, and 2s booklet, machines. Stamp machines are costly to convert to accept coins other than those for which they were designed; the small capacity of booklet machines and the high costs of machinable booklets render these machines unsuitable for retention also.

To prepare for decimalization in 1971 and to make available a machine selling stamps more suited to current tariffs, a new stamp selling machine will be introduced, which will issue five stamps in a combination of different values for a single coin (a shilling, which is identical in size and value to the proposed five new-penny coin). The stamps will be issued sideways-on, and not end-on, as at present.

The first stage in site preparation for the new machines (which will be installed over the period January 1969 to December 1970) will involve the withdrawal of the  $\frac{1}{2}d$  and 2d machines early this year.

## High Value Stamps

We have received several queries about the small dots which sometimes appear on the top margin of sheets of these stamps.

They are in fact registration marks placed by the printer on the printing plates so that he can see any movement which may occur in the register of the print to the lay edge of the sheet.

## Withdrawal of Bureau Stock Items

The British Paintings issue will be withdrawn from sale on 9 July 1968.

The £1 general series unwatermarked stocks are now exhausted.

## Conditions

The Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh 1, will be pleased to supply any number of stamps shown on its current order form, subject to stocks being available, in mint condition only. For stamps not shown on the form, enquiries should be made of a stamp dealer.

We do not guarantee to supply stamps from particular cylinders or plates, position or cylinder blocks, particular editions of books or books with selected watermark.

Stamps are NOT supplied cancelled to order. Remittances, which *must* be sent with orders, should be made payable to 'GPO Philatelic Bureau' and should include a handling charge of 6d for orders under 10s, and 3s 9d for orders of 10s and over (9d and 4s respectively for orders to Overseas Countries, other than the Commonwealth). For orders to be sent by Air Mail the cost of the airmail postage should be added. Stamps are not accepted as payment for orders.

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